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A N E X A C T

RELATION

OF THE

Siege of *PRAGUE*.



(Price 6 d.)



Christian III. Count Palatine / Deux-Ponts
Frederick Michael
A N E X A C T

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OF THE

Siege of PRAGUE,

BY THE

Prince de *Deux Ponts*.

Done from the Original *French*,
printed at *Frankfort*, by his
Imperial Majesty's Orders.



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Prince de *Deux Ponts*.

TH E Care of defending the
Town of *Prague* having been
committed to Marshal *Bellisle*,
his Excellency ordered on the 15th of
June the Parapets of the Ramparts to
be raised, which for want of Repair
were almost ruined, and where the
Place would admit of it, he caused Pa-
lifades and Frises to be made ; and though
there was no Suspicion at that Time,
that the Enemy would undertake the
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Siege of *Prague*, still the Marshal left no Measures untried to put the Town in the best Posture of Defence, through an Excess of Precaution ; which however happened to prove very useful to us afterwards by the Enemy's Imprudence. The *Austrians* after having remained a long while in their Camp, whose Right extended to the Upper *Moldau*, decamped the 26th of *July*, and passed before the Park, extending their left Wing to an opposite Eminence, their Centre to the Park, and their Right in Arrear to the Village of *Mothal*, where the Grand Duke kept his General Quarters. General *Bathiani* having passed a great Hollow that lay before him, went and encamped opposite to the *Vischerat*, leaving the Hollow in his Rear ; the *Hungarians*, *Volunteers*, *Croatians*, *Pandours*, *Talpasbes*, and others encamped on his Right, behind Count *Madiany* and the Village of *Michel*, and made themselves
Masters

Masters of the Posts of *Troja*, *Liben*, and *Potrofy*, that extend along the Windings of the Lower *Meldau* : However, all these Movements could not induce us to imagine that the Enemy intended to lay Siege to the Town ; though we had been given to understand, that they had sent for their heavy Artillery to *Vienna*, and even that it was arrived ; but we could not conceive how they could impose on themselves so far, as to believe they were able to force a Town garrisoned at that Time by an Army of about 30,000 Men. Reflecting therefore on the Arduousness of the Enterprize, we concluded that they only intended to blockade us.

Nevertheless Marshal *Bellisle*, as he was resolved to omit no Manner of Precaution necessary for the Defence of the Town, ordered the Terraplains of the Ramparts, that were not of a sufficient

Depth, to be dug deeper, and had Espaulments new raised on the Fronts of *Laurenſberg* and *Carlſthor*. The like Precaution was uſed on the Front of the New Town, and oppoſite to the Hoſpital Gate, where Maſhal *Belliſſe* had already made a Covert-way.

The fixth of *Auguſt* we perceived that the Enemy's left Wing had extended itſelf towards the lower *Moldau*, a little beyond the Village of *Rotock*; and on the eighth of *Auguſt* they began to erect a Battery upon an Eminence which they occupied over againſt the *Piedmont* Chapel; the Place ſo called has a great Garden in the fore Part of it, and faces the left Side of the Front of *Carlſthor*. This Battery began to play the ninth of *Auguſt* at Eleven in the Morning, and the Town answered with all the Cannon of the Front of *Carlſthor*, which diſmounted ſome of the Enemy's

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Pieces; but the Chapel of *Piedmont*, which lay much lower than the Enemy's Battery, and consequently was intirely commanded by it, was of Course vastly incommoded; nevertheless it bore the Enemy's Fire pretty well, and continued playing the whole Day with more or less Success.

At Break of Day we removed to the left of the *Red-house* four Pieces of 12 Pounders and two of 24, which annoyed the Enemy's Battery, that consisted of 12 Cannon only, to which afterwards several Mortars were added. The next Morning we removed our Cannon from the Chapel, where it was quite useless. The eleventh of *August* the Enemy took Possession in the Night of the Place called the Old Retrenchment before *Laurenzberg*; so that it is from this Time precisely we are to date the opening of the Trenches. The 13th in

in the Morning the Enemy fir'd from this Quarter with two Batteries of five Mortars each. The 14th of *August* the Enemy erected, during the greatest Part of the Night, fascine Batteries round our Camp, upon the Eminencies that extend along the Windings of the *Moldau*; four Pieces were mounted towards the Village of *Troja*, four towards *Liben*, three towards the Infirmary, and three towards the Crosses.

The 15th, at Day break, they began to cannonade us, and continued it the rest of the Day; whereupon we sent our heavy Baggage into the Town; but Marshal *Broglie* made no other Alteration in his Camp, but that of removing two Brigades of Cavalry, together with the Carabiniers, to another Camp behind the Infantry, where they lay less exposed to the Enemy's Fire. We lost that whole Day, notwithstanding the great Fire the
Enemy

Enemy made, not above 30 Men. Towards the Evening Marshal *Broglie* ordered Part of the Troops to remove into the Town, and the rest to incamp in the Fossé. The 16th of *August*, though nothing considerable happened, as the Enemy contented themselves with firing faintly from their old Battery, still we perceived that they had posted themselves in the *Red-house*, which we had abandoned the Day before. The 17th, at Day break, we saw they had begun a Parallel, the left extending from the *Red-house*, and descending by the Right to *St. Margaret's Valley*, about 320 Fathoms long. This Work, though very inconsiderable in it self, convinced us however at last, of what till then appeared to us incredible, viz. that they intended to besiege us; at the same Time we concluded, they had fixt their Attack against *Laurenzberg Front*.

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The 18th we found the Enemy had joined in the Night their new Parallel to that Part of the old Retrenchment they had taken Possession of the 11th at Night; and that they had in a Manner buried themselves the whole Length of their pretended Parallel, beginning from the *Red-house* to the Old Retrenchment; notwithstanding the whole Work was near 320 Fathoms distant from the Rampart.

The same Day Marshal *Bellisle* ordered two small Out-works opposite to the Bastion on the left of *Laurenzberg*, which were completed with a diligent Exactness some Days after, without the Enemy's ever attempting to disturb the Work. The Marshal raised likewise some other Outworks; as a Lodgment upon a But of the Glacis on the left Side of *St. Margaret's Gate*, and ordered to be made a Covert-way palisadoed by
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way of Communication of the above-mentioned Work, with the advanced Part of the said Gate. Moreover, he had taken Care to occupy the Bridge that is upon St. *Margaret's* Hollow, and a little Chapel that is on the other Side of a small Stone Bridge.

The 18th at Night Marshal *Bellisle* proposed a Sally with four Brigades of Infantry, *Navarre, Orleans, la Marine,* and *Anjou*, and 400 Dragoons in the Centre, which accordingly was executed the next Morning: Our Troops marched out in very good Order by three different Gates; the Right commanded by the Count of *Danois*, Marshal de Camp, the Left by the Duke de *Biron*, also Marshal de Camp, and the Centre by the Marquis de *Surgere*, Colonel of Dragoons. We proceeded in very great Silence to the Enemy's Entrenchments; but as they had been apprised

of our Design, at eight o' Clock the Night before, by a Deserter from the Regiment of *Alsace*, they had strengthened their Trenches with new Troops, and waited for us with all Manner of Advantage.

We arrived at the Enemy's Trenches a little before Day-break : Their Fire commenced as soon as they heard us approach, whilst we were extending ourselves in order to take in their whole Front ; so that they had Time enough to make several Discharges, which killed some of our People : But this was all the Loss we sustained ; for as soon as our Men fell upon them with their Bayonets at the Muzzles of their Muskets without once firing, they made no Manner of Resistance, but took all to their Heels. Then we mixed pell mell with them in their Trenches, where the Slaughter at first was very great ; but soon after
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the Soldiers Fury being allayed, we took near 400 Prisoners, as well on the Left, as on the Centre and the Right; for the three Attacks were made at the same Time, as we had the same Road to march, and as we had a Signal given us by three Bombs thrown at the same Time from the Town. For the Space of two Hours, that we remained Masters of the Enemy's Trenches from Right to Left, we were occupy'd in rasing and filling up their Works. The Enemy approached immediately with all their Cavalry, and the rest of their Infantry: but never attempted to molest us for above an Hour that they were drawn up before us in Battalia, insomuch that we had Time enough to send to the Town for Horses to carry off the Enemy's Artillery. But our Workmen, not satisfied with nailing the Mortars and Cannon, had moreover, without Orders, quite destroyed the Carriages and Wheels,

so as to render it impossible to draw the Artillery when the Horses arrived. We were obliged then to content ourselves with carrying off two small Pieces of six Pounders, which the Count of *Danois* had sent into the Town at the Beginning of the Attack, by our Workmen, who were at the Trouble of drawing them themselves. In Revenge we nailed 13 Mortars on the Left, and 11 Cannon. The Enemy had no Artillery as yet in their Centre; but we scattered about, and spoiled all the Powder they had in their Entrenchments, and set Fire to the House that cover'd their Right, where our Left made their Attack, commanded by the Duke de *Biron*. We set Fire also to the *Red-house*, but a little too late; so that upon our retiring into the Town, they had Time enough to extinguish it. Our Retreat was made with all imaginable Quiet; the Enemy not venturing to pursue us, nor even to re-
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enter their Trenches, till we had got into the Town. We believe the Enemy may have lost in this Sally about 1500 Men, besides the wounded. We took from them three Colours, a great Number of Arms, and all Sorts of Military Implements.

The 19th, at Night, the Enemy began three Batteries behind their Parallel, one opposite to St. *Margaret's* Gate, and the other two on the Right and Left; at the same Time they were at work at two Bomb Batteries. The 20th, Marshal *Bellisle* gave Orders for the Mineworks to be continued, as also for several other Works to be farther advanced, so that a few Days after they were carried within 80 Fathoms of the Enemy's Trenches, when it might be said in Strictness of Truth, that we were rather advancing towards them, and carrying our Trenches to their Parallel. All
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these Works took in almost the whole Front of the Enemy's Right, opposite to our Left ; so that they had no Means or Appearance left of making their Approaches, and drawing a second Parallel, without driving us first out of these Outworks.

But their Troops were so disheartened after our first Sally, that not only they durst not attack any of our small Works, but they scarce so much as disturbed our Workmen ; on the contrary, we made several small Sallies upon them, which contributed very much towards retarding their Approaches, Since the 19th, their Batteries played with two small Mortars only ; but as we concluded they had repaired their Batteries, and mounted more Cannon, the two Marshals resolved to make a Grand Sally the 22d, whereof the Enemy having had Intelligence the 21st, they had Time enough to take all their

their Precautions, and to reinforce their Retrenchments as they judged proper. Accordingly they posted in their Trenches almost all their Infantry, not leaving above 1000 Men to guard their Camp. Their Cavalry were drawn up in order of Battle at the Head of their Camp, ready to support their Infantry: This did not hinder us from marching towards the Enemy at five in the Afternoon. The Sally consisted of six Brigades of Foot, *Auvergne*, *Navarre*, the King's, *Orleans*, the Queen's, and *Piedmont*, 230 Carabiniers on Foot, and 400 Dragoons. The Count de *Danois* commanded at the Head of the Left, where was also the Duke de *Biron*, as Colonel of the King's Regiment; Count de *Berchiny*, Marshal de Camp, commanded the Centre; and the Count de *Villemur* the Right. Our Troops moved on, all at the same Time, towards the Enemy, and with as much Order as if they were performing
their

their Exercifes, and without firing a Shot, marched up directly to the Enemy's Trenches. The Enemy having waited for us till we came within Mufket Shot, then made a General Difcharge, which having killed fome of our Men, ferved for a Signal to the reft to haften their March towards the Enemy, who not having had Time fufficient to charge again, and not daring to encounter our Soldiers with their Bayonets at the Muzzles of their Mufkets, began all to run away fo precipitately that their Officers could not flop them. But the Hurry and Confufion they were in prevented their getting Time enough out of their Trenches; fo that our Troops, who broke in upon them at the fame Time, found the Trenches yet full, and during the firft Moments of their Fury made a moft terrible Slaughter. The whole Military Execution was without firing a Gun, and only with the Bayonets at
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the Muzzles of their Muskets. In the mean while, some of the hottest of our Men pursued the flying Enemy with such Ardour, that it was impossible to restrain them: Even the rest of the Battalions followed them a little too far, in spite of their Officers; and were up with these Run-aways to their very Camp, in the midst of their Squadrons drawn up in Battalia to support them. Mean while, the Duke de *Biron*, having stopt the King's Brigade, contrived to draw our Men up again in very good Order, within Sight of the *Austrian* Cavalry, that never once stirred to oppose him; but happening to receive a Wound at that very Time, he was obliged to retire to the Covert-way, where he was wounded a second Time by a Musket Shot, after having behaved most gallantly during the whole Action. The other Brigades followed the Example of the King's, and rallying immediately, re-

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turned in very good Order to the Enemy's Trenches. Whilst our Troops were in Pursuit of the Enemy, our Workmen demolished their Batteries, burnt their Gabions, and filled their Works with great Success and Diligence. In our Retreat we halted in the Trenches, before we repassed them, till the Marshals sent us Orders to withdraw into the Town. We succeeded in our Design even beyond Expectation; for we were occupied in demolishing their Works during the Space of an Hour and half, and nailed nine Mortars, which was all the Artillery we found in the Trenches; though we had surmised that they had mounted all their Mortars and Cannon, and upon that Supposition had resolved upon the Sally. Certain it is that we had it fully in our Power, to have carried off all their Artillery if it had been in the Trenches, and so undeceive them with regard to their Enterprize, by depriving them of all

all Possibility of continuing it. One Thing we can aver, that this second Sally so completely disheartened and dispirited their Infantry, that they never after kept their Ground before ours, in all the petty Sallies that followed.

It is no Exaggeration to say that they lost in this Action above 3000 Men killed upon the Spot, without reckoning the wounded, 300 Prisoners, (amongst whom were several Officers, and Major General *Monti*, Chief Engineer) and two Colours. On our Side we lost about 300 Men killed and wounded, and the best Part of them as we re-entered St. *Margaret's* Gate, and by the Enemy's Fire from their Entrenchments, where their Officers compelled them to return, after our Troops had abandoned them, to make their Retreat into the Town by the Marshal's Orders.

The 24th the Enemy demanded a Suspension of Arms, to bury the Dead, which the Marshals granted. From this Grand Sally of the 22d, the Enemy was occupied till the 29th in perfecting their Redoubts and their Trenches. On our Side we contented ourselves with making only small Sallies, which however generally succeeded in killing great Numbers of our Enemies, besides the continual Interruption of their Works.

During this Space of Time the Enemy remained in a kind of Inaction, without firing either Cannon or Mortar; nor till the 29th would they venture to bring back into the Trenches their Cannon or Mortars, lest we should carry them off; such was the Consternation they were in after our Sallies. In the Town every Thing was very quiet, and there seemed to be a perfect Security for seven or eight Days, without any Appearance of a Siege
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on the Enemy's Side. But after having spent eight Days in fortifying their Trenches by Redoubts raised with a great deal of Pains and Art, they ventured at last to bring back and remount their Cannon : They likewise planted new Batteries in the Centre, and augmented those of the Right and Left, so as to begin to play upon the Town the 29th very briskly with 39 Cannon and 24 Mortars. Our Artillery answered them very smartly ; but this was not what we chiefly relied on for the Defence of *Prague* ; it was our Sallies we trusted to, which we intended to renew with four or five Brigades as before, as soon as the Enemy should come to their second Parallel ; and there it was we expected to have them.

We continued still our petty Sallies, always with the same Success, waiting to see whether the Enemy would advance

advance out of their first Parallel to form a Second ; but this they did not think proper to venture on yet a while ; but seemed contented with firing at a prodigious Rate from their Artillery upon our Works, and with throwing a vast Number of Bombs upon our Ramparts, and upon the Town. Three Days this terrible Fire had continued with an equal Briskness, when Marshal *Koningseck* sent a Trumpet to Marshal *Bellisle* to propose an Interview, which was agreed upon by both Sides for the 31st of *August*. But as Marshal *Koningseck* did only renew the Proposals, which we had before rejected upon a like Occasion ; this last Conference happened to be very short, and both the Marshals withdrew without coming to any Conclusion. The Enemy thereupon renewed their Fire with more Fury than ever, and levelled it against the Bastions that are on the Right and Left of *St. Margaret's Gate*, which they designed

designed to batter in Breach. It is an easy Matter to form a Judgment of the Effect their cannonading could produce at near 400 Fathoms Distance; still it continued with the same Vivacity and Inutility till the raising of the Siege, without having scarce so much as scraped the Lining of the Scarp.

The Enemy now perceiving that they should never be able to make a Breach at so great a Distance, and that for compassing their Design they must necessarily approach their Batteries, attempted at last a second Parallel, the Left of which they began the second of *September* at Night; a Work of 200 Fathoms in Length: And the third of *September* also at Night they began the Right, which was 70 Fathoms long. Their Design was to take Advantage of a hollow Way that was in the Centre, in order to fix there the Communication of their

their Parallels. We saw through their Design that very Night, and straitway set about disturbing their Works, by small Sallies of ten Grenadiers only, which incommoded them pretty much. But the fourth at Night we sallied out with seven Companies of Grenadies upon the whole Front of their new Works, which succeeded so far as to clear the Trenches entirely, and kill a great Number of their Men. Marshal *Bellisle* ordered afterwards two Culverines to be carried a small Distance from the Ramparts upon the Extremity of the Right Side of the Out-works he had made on the Right of *Laurenſberg*; and as this Post was only 50 Fathoms distant from the Enemy's first Parallel, their second Parallel and the whole Hollow were so exposed, that they durst no longer work by Day, and by Night they suffered equally in their Trenches by our Sallies. The fifth

fifth at Night, the Marshals ordered a Sally of 12 Companies of Grenadiers upon the Enemy's new Work; four upon the Left, two against their Centre, and six against their old Parallel on the Right: This Sally happened to have as good Success, and rather better than the former, although the Enemy had ordered some Battalions to lye flat on their Bellies to receive our People; our Grenadiers drove them into their Trenches, and entered Pell Mell along with them, where after having slain a great Number of the Enemy, we took 40 Prisoners, and amongst them five Officers. The ensuing Nights, till the 10th inclusive, these petty Sallies were repeated, and always with full Success, having never retired without bringing in some Prisoners, and killing 3 or 400 Men. After the seventh their Cannon did not seem to be pointed against any Place exactly, and the greatest Part of their Bombs fell into the Town, or

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went over it, so that they seemed to fire quite at Random: They even gave over working at their second Parallel, which they had begun the second at Night. The 11th their Cannon and Mortars fired still more indiscriminately, and only 20 Pieces, and as if they intended rather to burn and demolish the Town, than to besiege us; they threw into it all Sorts of Bombs, Balls, and artificial Fires. At length, towards the Evening, we perceived a great Motion in the Enemy's Army, and we soon after saw they intended to move off their Cannon, which accordingly they did the 11th and 12th at Night. The 13th they quitted their Trenches at three o' Clock in the Morning, leaving behind them however a vast Number of Bombs, and other Military Implements. The 13th at Night they set Fire to their Camp, and began their March in two Columns towards *Beraun*, by Night, for fear that if they should set
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out by Day, we should be at their Heels; which might have been easily done, if the Marshals had been pleased to remount the Cavalry and Dragoons, as we had upwards of 12000 Horses, that are now in Possession of the Officers, especially of the Infantry, which they had taken in Exchange for their own Horses, as fast as those of the Cavalry were killed. The Enemy marching off, left in the Neighbourhood of *Prague* about 7 or 8000 irregular Troops, the most Part *Hungarians*, Volunteers, or *Pandours*, with two old Regiments only of *Hussars*, under the Command of General *Festitz*. These Troops compelled the Peasants to remove together with their Effects upwards of two Leagues from *Prague*; and at the same Time took strict Care to guard all the Avenues and Roads, where we might expect to receive Provisions. General Count *Bathiani* staid behind three Days after the Army went away, to give Di-

rections for this pretended Blockade. This did not hinder the Marquis *de Beauveau*, Inspector of the Cavalry, from making a very plentiful Forage on the 15th in the Village of *Michel*, in Sight of Count *Bathiani's* Camp, who detached, but to no Purpose, some *Hussars* and *Pandours* to disturb us. The Marquis *de Villemur*, Marshal de Camp, went out a foraging to the same Place every Day after successively; so that this small Village only furnished, for eight Days, Forage sufficient for 12000 Horse, which are still in the the Town of *Prague*.

All this while Provisions for the Mouth were kept from us, as the Peasants could not bring them in, because the *Hussars*, *Croatians*, and *Pandours* were Masters of all the Posts round about. Wherefore the Marshals resolved to dislodge them from all the Posts in their Possession. They marched themselves the 20th in
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the Morning with two Brigades of Infantry, and 7 or 800 Horse to the Villages of *Ziben*, and of *Podoly*, occupied by the Enemy. At the same Time the Duke of *Luxembourg* had Orders to attack *St. Margaret* and the Park; a Lieutenant Colonel of Foot to attack the Retrenchment of *St. Procopius*, whilst the Bridge of *Rotock* was attacked by Mr. *de Tier* ~~and Marshal de Saxe~~ Quarter-Master of the Army.

We drove the Enemy from all their Posts with great Loss; and the same Day, at five in the Evening, the Marshals dispatched the Prince *de Deux Ponts*, the Duke *de Brisac*, and the Chevalier *de Groslier*; the first to carry to the Emperor the Colours we had taken from the Enemy during the Siege of *Prague*; the second to give the King an Account of the Siege, and the last to make a Report of the raising of the Siege to his Imperial

rial Majesty. There remains still in the Town, according to the last Review, 25000 fighting Men, 2000 Horses belonging to the Cavalry and Dragoons, 10000 to the Officers, and all Sorts of Grains for six Months Subsistence. In the Hospital there are 2500 Men sick and wounded.

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